

MILWAUKEE COUNTY JDAI ADVISORY BOARD

**VEL PHILLIPS JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
MINUTES**

May 1, 2013

The meeting was called to order by JDAI Site-coordinator B. Thomas Wanta. Attendees introduced themselves, with Wanta noting that the Department of Corrections was now represented among those in attendance.

Wanta led a project re-cap, including discussion of the first meeting between Milwaukee County stakeholders and the representatives of the Casey Foundation in an August 2012 meeting in which many of those in attendance at today's meeting participated. Wanta also noted there had been an October 2012 "Kick-off" event, during which an explanation of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) was given to those in attendance. Wanta indicated that, again, many of those in attendance today were there.

Wanta further noted, in a discussion not originally noted on the agenda, that several of the Advisory members had recently returned from the JDAI Inter-Site conference in Atlanta. Wanta invited those at the meeting who had attended the conference to offer any reflections on the conference, including significant "take-aways" they brought back with them. Comments were offered by Michelle Naples, Hon. Joe Donald, and Wilma Fonseca.

The group was reminded of the March *Fundamentals* training to which all three of the Wisconsin sites were invited and which took place here in Milwaukee County. Summary comments were offered by Wanta and Judge Donald. Parties discussed how they felt about the trainings and what values they attached to the event.

Concerns were voiced by Lovell Johnson and the Hon. Dennis Cimpl as to whether the specific needs of Milwaukee County and the safety of those who come before its courts were being adequately considered in the planning for the initiative. Judge Donald indicated the role of the local advisory group was to be sure the local concerns were addressed.

Wanta reported that during the visit of the Casey team to Milwaukee County for the Kick-off event, interviews were conducted by the Casey team with many of the stakeholders who attended. Based on the interviews, the Casey team prepared a system assessment which described their observations of the Milwaukee County detention system. Wanta reported he has reviewed the report and will submit responses and a possible supplemental report to the

assessment. The report will be shared with the local stakeholders and the subject of a future meeting.

Wanta discussed “next steps” including the creation of a governance structure and committees. He indicated much of the committee structure may be formed based on the comments in the assessment report. He indicated a steering group to which he, Judge Donald, a prosecutor, a defense attorney and the detention superintendent would belong would report back to this group as the long-term direction of the advisory board is formed. Wanta also reported that the advisory board has been designated as the juvenile justice standing committee of the Milwaukee County Community Justice Council (CJC) per the CJC Executive Committee and will report to that body.

A packet of materials, including a sample Memorandum of Understanding from Ramsey County was distributed to those in attendance. It was cited as an example and possible framework for one that will need to be created for the Milwaukee County initiative. Attendees were asked to review it. The resolution passed earlier this year by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in support of JDAI was also distributed.

The next major activity that will involve the Casey Foundation will be a Detention Risk Assessment Instrument training here in Milwaukee on June 20, 2013. It will include representatives of the three sites as well as personnel from the Wisconsin Juvenile Court Intake Association and other interested counties.

Wisconsin will send a team to Portland, OR in July on a Model Site visit. Multnomah County was one of the original JDAI sites and will be visited in the hope their “lessons learned” and experiences will help address questions those on the visitation may have.

The board was invited to serve in an advisory capacity for a related system reform effort, the Juvenile Justice Reform and Reinvestment Initiative (JJRRI). JJRRI is a project funded through a federal grant designed to assess and improve services provided to youth in the juvenile justice system through implementing evidence-based tools developed through the research on what works in reducing recidivism. Members are asked to participate in a JJRRI Stakeholder Engagement meeting to be held on May 28, 2013 at a location to be determined.

The meetings of the JDAI advisory board will, for the immediate future, occur on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 12, 2013.